

Message Text

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47

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 PER-05 PPT-02 SCA-01 RSC-01

DRC-01 /045 W

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R 051140Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8502

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 5144

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, SA

SUBJ: NEW AID/OPS CHIEF FOR SAUDI ARABIA

1. EMBASSY MOST PLEASED TO LEARN FROM NESBITT FOLLOWING HIS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON THAT THE NOMINATION OF MR. BAUMAN AS NEW CHIEF OS AID/OPS SAUDI ARABIA IS BACK ON THE TRACKS.

2. WE HAVE CONSIDERED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF BAUMAN'S ASSIGNMENT WHICH NESBITT TELLS US WERE SUBJECT OF SOME CONCERN IN WASHINGTON, AND DO NOT REPEAT NOT FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD BE AN OBSTACLE.

3. PROCEDURE WHEREBY BAUMAN IS ENGAGED ON A PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY WHETHER OR NOT IT IS FEASIBLE FOR HIM TO CONVERT TO FSR (LIMITED) AT A LATER TIME. AMBASSADOR WILL LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT BAUMAN IS HEAD OF THE PROGRAM. WE CONFIDENT THAT HIS CONTRACT STATUS WILL LEAD TO NO REPEAT NO QUESTIONING OF HIS AUTHORITY BY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE AID/OPS MISSION.

4. AMBASSADOR THINKS IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT BAUMAN BE GIVEN AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT. PARTICULARLY IN FIRST FEW MONTHS ON THE JOB WHILE HE STILL ESTABLISHING HIS RELATIONS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS HE MUST HAVE OFFICIAL PASSPORT AS VISIBLE SIGN HIS USG STATUS.

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5. APPRECIATE THERE MIGHT BE CONCERN ABOUT SETTING PRECEDENT BY GIVING OFFICIAL PASSPORT TO SOMEONE ON PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT. BUT BAUMAN WILL BE HEADING A MAJOR, IMPORTANT, AND PROBABLY GROWING USG PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IT WOULD HINDER HIS OPERATIONS AND BE CONFUSING TO SAUDIS WERE HE TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH A BLUE PASSPORT.

AKINS

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